



David L. Merritt

Program Director, SPAWAR 06, Chief Technology Office
Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command

Mr. David L. Merritt, a member of the Senior Executive Service since 1985, is the Program Director of the Chief Technology Office for the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command at San Diego, California. In this position he is responsible for identification, development and transition of advanced C4ISR technology solutions to the fleet and fleet Marine force to further enhance the battle space dominance of the warfighter. The Advanced Concepts and Technologies Directorate provides support to the Navy Warfare Development Center and the Maritime Battle Center in numerous advanced technology focus areas. Mr. Merritt serves as liaison with other agencies and organizations, such as Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the Office of Naval Research, academia, and industry, to effect the technology transition process.

From March 1996 to August 1997, Mr. Merritt was the Director of Strategic/Corporate Planning and Development in the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR). He was responsible for the command's strategic planning process, for development of SPAWAR's corporate organization and work force, and for corporate marketing.

From September 1994 to March 1996, Mr. Merritt was the Director of the Information Systems Security Office in SPAWAR. He was responsible for acquisition of new security systems, providing security engineering services, repairing fielded security devices, and development of security system technology for all Navy communication systems and computer networks.

From July 1993 to September 1994, Mr. Merritt served as Transition Executive, reporting directly to the Commander, SPAWAR, with responsibility for leading the downsizing and restructuring of SPAWAR. From July 1991 to June 1993, Mr. Merritt was Director of Technology for SPAWAR. He was the command focal point for technology development and demonstration, and for promoting transition to full-scale development of high-payoff new technologies in surveillance, command, control, and communications. From July 1989 to June 1991, Mr. Merritt was the Program Manager of the Strategic Defense Systems Office, PMW-145, in SPAWAR. He served as Deputy Program Manager for four years prior to that. There he was responsible for development of laser radar sensor systems for ballistic missile defense and for directed energy systems for strategic and tactical counter-sensor and weapon missions.

In 1987-88, Mr. Merritt led a SPAWAR team that defined an implementation plan for the Warfare Support System encompassing the integration of wide area sensors with advanced processing techniques to provide an improved tactical picture for the battle force Commander. From 1981 to 1985, Mr. Merritt was an Assistant Program Manager in the Directed Energy Program Office in NAVSEA. Prior to that he served as an Assistant Program Manager in the High Energy Laser Program Office, also in NAVSEA.

Mr. Merritt began his career with the Navy at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, White Oak (then the Naval Ordnance Laboratory) in 1962. He spent over ten years doing original work in aerodynamics, heat transfer, and nuclear weapons effects, including development of unique sensors and instrumentation. He has published a number of technical papers and reports.

Mr. Merritt holds Bachelors and Masters degrees in mechanical engineering from Yale University. He has also completed postgraduate work in aerospace engineering at the University of Maryland. Mr. Merritt is the recipient of the Meritorious Civilian Service Medal and the Superior Civilian Service Medal.